

## August 25, 2024: “You have the words of eternal life”

### Confession and Forgiveness by the Rev. Justin Kosec

Jesus, you spread out your arms to welcome the world. And then you tell us to feed them.

But we struggle with your command. We find the seed of doubt growing in our hearts:

What is our compassion among so much pain? What is our small kindness in a system of injustice?

What is one act of reconciliation in a divided society? How can so little food feed so many hungry mouths?

**We have simply forgotten that when you ask us to feed the world, you always provide the bread.**

**Even when we have tasted the bread you multiply; even when we gather your leftovers, we still find ourselves between your wondrous power and our sinful reality.**

**So we ask for your forgiveness.**

**When you call for our faith, forgive our unbelief. As you prepare our heavenly dwelling, forgive our earthly worries. When you offer us armfuls of food that satisfies, forgive our appetite for unhealthy fare.**

**When your gospel challenges us, forgive our irritable complaints.**

**You are patient with us even when we prove fussy and doubtful, reluctant and argumentative.**

People of God, Jesus knows that you are hungry for forgiveness.

So Jesus has set our table with bread from heaven; and a feast to heal the soul. You are forgiven.

God leavens you with eternal goodness. Jesus gives you forgiveness enough to share.

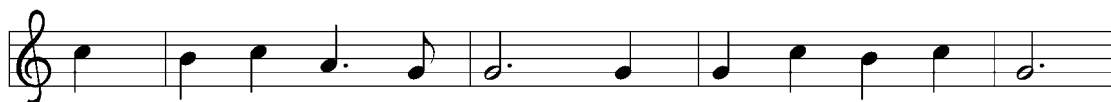
And the Holy Spirit fills your life with the flavor of transformation. You are forgiven.

**God, give us this bread always. Amen.**

### Gathering Song *When Morning Gilds the Skies* (ELW 853)



1 When morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries:  
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, this is my song of songs:  
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon in all high heav'n is known  
4 Let all of hu - man - kind in this their con - cord find:  
5 Sing, sun and stars of space, sing, all who see his face,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! God's ho - ly house of prayer  
than “Je - sus Christ be praised!” There to the e - ter - nal Word  
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let all the earth a - round  
sing, “Je - sus Christ be praised!” God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



this rings my cur - few call: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
has none that can com - pare with “Je - sus Christ be praised!”  
the e - ter - nal psalm is heard: oh, Je - sus Christ be praised!  
ring joy - ous with the sound: may Je - sus Christ be praised!  
to - day and ev - er - more shall Je - sus Christ be praised!


## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## Kyrie (ELW p. 184)

The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy". Some settings of the kyrie are more penitential in nature but this one is an upbeat celebration of God's grace. The worship leaders will sing the verses and the congregation will join on the refrain.

*Refrain*




Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

Each verse ends with:

*Congregation enters:*



*Refrain*


let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 185)

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, the high-est, and



peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo-ry. *Refrain*



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Final refrain*

### Prayer of the Day

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

**Psalm: Psalm 34:15-22**



<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the Lord are up- | on the righteous,  
and God's ears are open | to their cry.  
<sup>16</sup>**The face of the Lord is against those | who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**  
<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and | the Lord hears them  
and delivers them from | all their troubles.  
<sup>18</sup>**The Lord is near to the | brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed. R**  
<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous,  
but the Lord delivers them from | every one.  
<sup>20</sup>**God will keep safe | all their bones;  
not one of them | shall be broken.**  
<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death | to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.  
<sup>22</sup>**O Lord, you redeem the life | of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. R**

**Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20**

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**Gospel Acclamation**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel using the words of Peter in John 6:68*



## Gospel: John 6:56-69

The holy gospel according to John.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day *Blessed Assurance* (ELW 638)



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

#### *Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

## Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Each petition ends with the words "Merciful God," and the assembly responds with "receive our prayer."*

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

## Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## Offering Prayer

## Great Thanksgiving Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

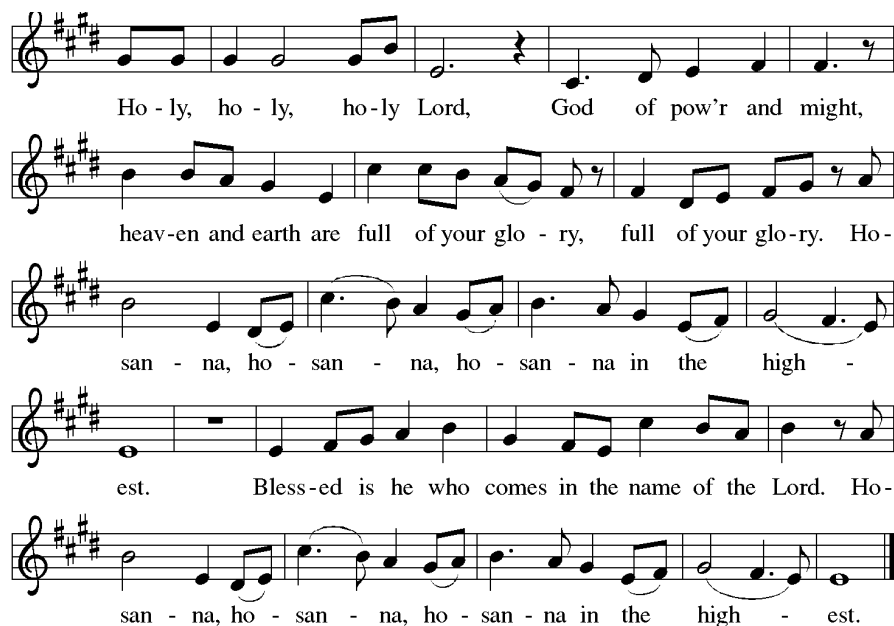
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Preface

## Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 190)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

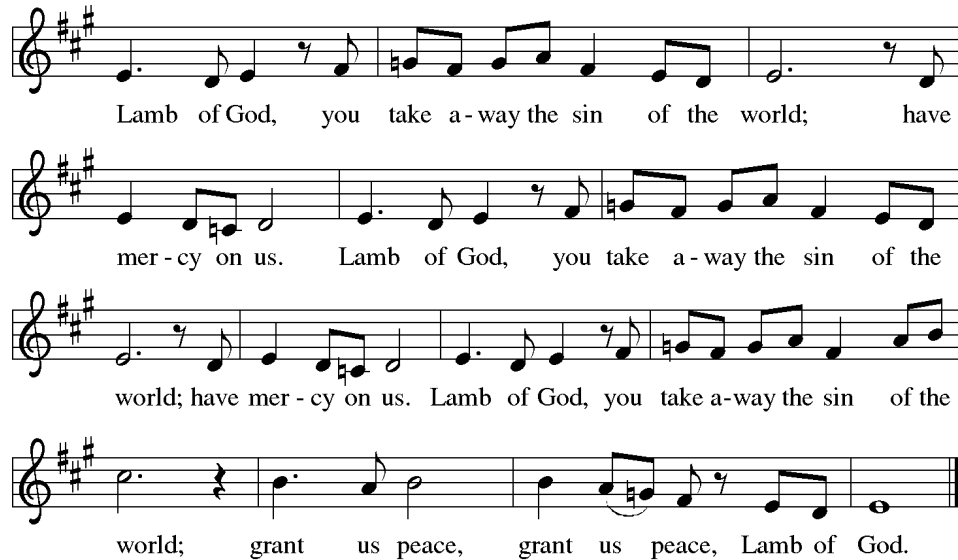
## Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

### Lamb Of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### Communion Song: *I Am the Bread of Life* (ELW 485)

*Copies are printed and in front of you in the pews. Please leave them there. This will be our communion song for the "Bread Of Life" series.*

## Prayer after Communion

### Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, † be upon you now and forever.  
Amen.

### Sending Song *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW 618)



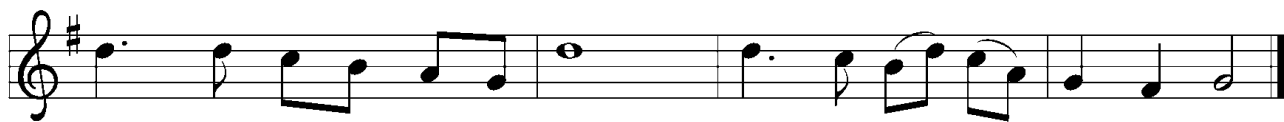
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

### Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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made by Rev. Tim Bauerkemper for length and language preferences].